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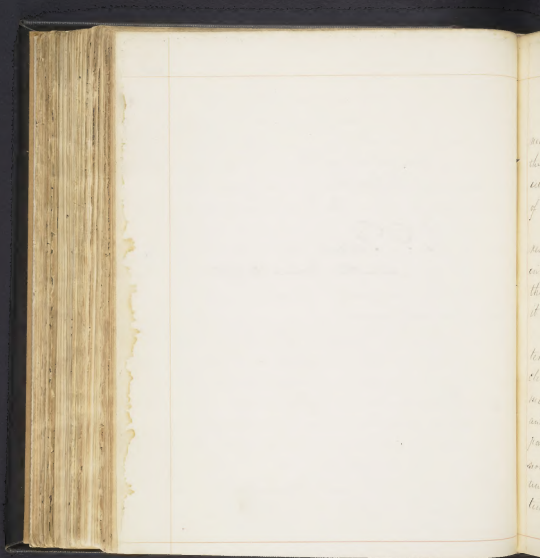
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A
Dissertation on the
Calamities.

By

J. P. Price

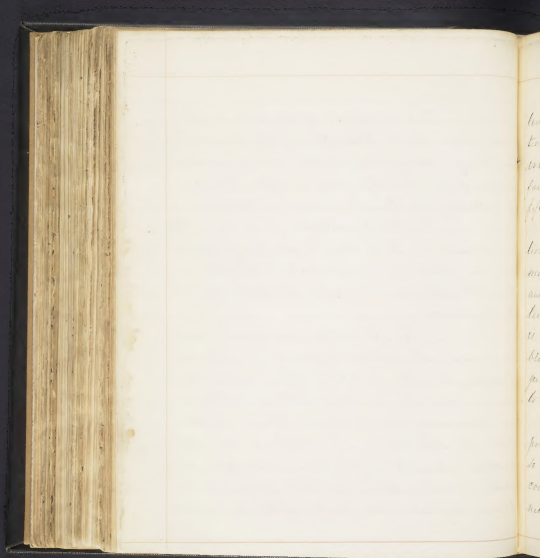
admitted March 19. 1819.



That periodic discharge of sanguinous fluid which takes place, every month, from the lining membrane of the uterine invaginations of a healthy female, after the age of puberty, is termed menses or Catamenia.

The fluid secreted bears some slight resemblance to blood, but is essentially different in most of its properties. It has neither the colour nor odour of blood, nor will it coagulate.

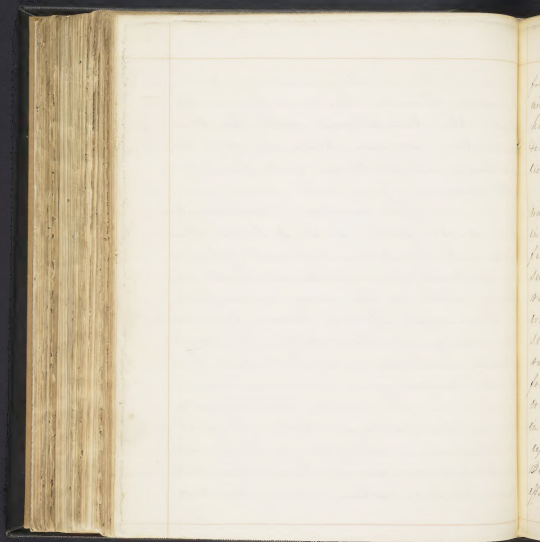
This function commences and terminates at different periods in different climates; in the equatorial regions it commences so early as the eighth or ninth year, and terminates much sooner than in other parts of the world. In Lapland, and the northern countries, it does not take place until about the eighteenth year, and continues beyond the forty eighth or fiftieth.



The healthy female of this temperate climate observes a medium between the two extremes: with her, this evacuation generally begins at about the fourteenth, and continues until the forty-fifth year.

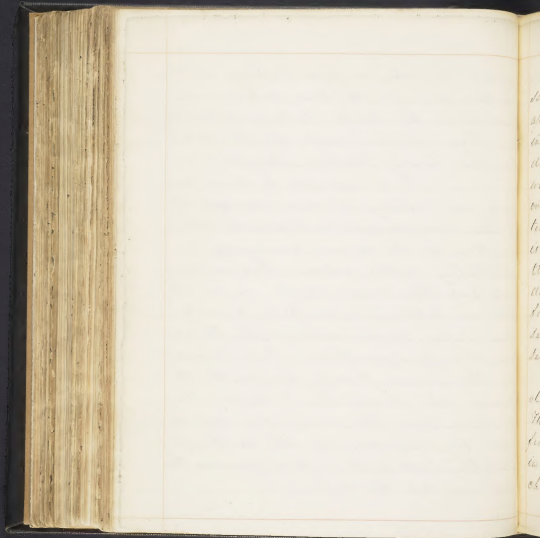
The duration of each menstruation is also affected by the particular climate. In the warmer regions it is profuse and continues for a considerable length of time: with us the most common period is three days. There is, however, considerable variety in this respect. The usual quantity discharged is said to be from four to six ounces.

The symptoms that frequently precede this discharge, which is to effect so important a revolution in the female constitution, are general languor and weakness, debased appetite, impaired digestion,



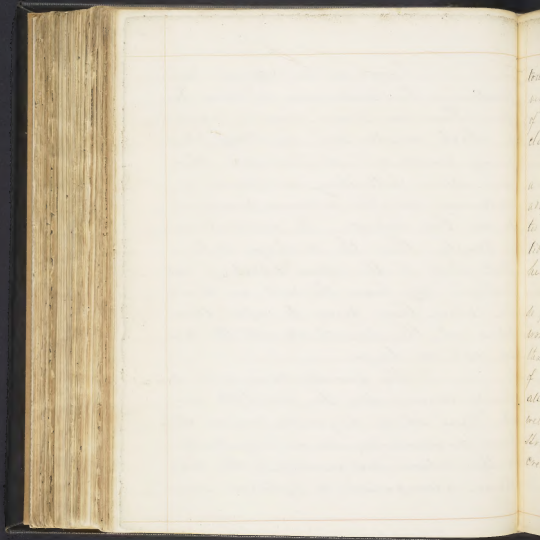
frequent headaches, a sense of heat, weight, and dull pains in the loins, distention and hardness of the breasts, flushings of the face &c. These symptoms vanish after the menstruation has become regularly established.

It is interrupted by disease, pregnancy, and suckling. Disease interrupts it in the same manner as it does the other functions in the animal economy, viz. by substituting another action. Thus, we generally find the menses checked in females who are labouring under fever, &c.; or, by some local disease with which the uterus strongly sympathizes. It is common for the female herself, and all the old women who surround her, to suppose that in these cases, the indisposition depends upon the suppression of this discharge. But the fact is, it is most generally the effect and not the cause.



Pregnancy also interrupts menstruation. The reason will be shown hereafter. There are several cases on record in which menstruation has taken place during pregnancy. At first view this would appear astonishing, and capable of overturning all the doctrines promulgated on this subject. The explanation is simply, that the discharge is from that part of the uterus which is not developed, viz. from the neck and mouth, for, when these begin to infect themselves at the seventh month the menses will no longer.

They generally cease, as we have already observed, after the forti-fifth year. The signs which frequently precede their final disappearance, are an irregularity in the return and quantity of the discharge, accompanied by hysterical symp-









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pleasure to inform you that

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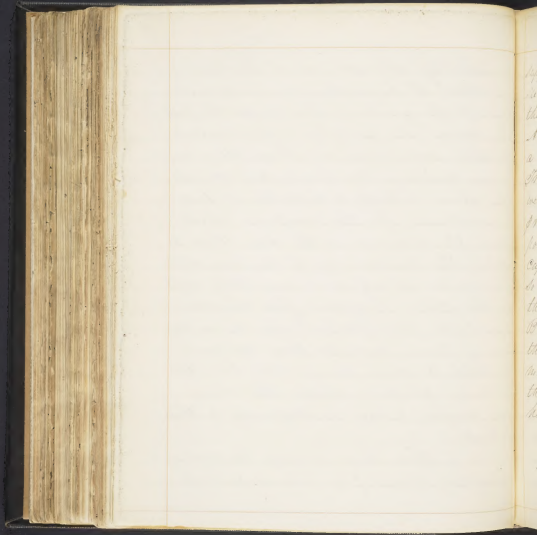






an unhealthy influence; and it has been
said that it frequently produces excori-
ations of the genitalia. This is not the fact.
The men are perfectly well: the causes
of their excoriations are Fluor Ulteri, Con-
cervous discharges. No Conceptions cannot
take place without a disposition at least
to menstruate, for the membrane which
forms the decidua is the same that se-
cures the mensis: Now, if the membrane
is incapable of one it is very likely unfit
for the other. It is said that Conceptions
have taken place without the mensis ever
having flowed, and after their cessation.
We think it more than probable that the
gentlemen who have reported these Cases
were decisive, perhaps unintentionally, by their
patients.

Some have imagined the discharges
unnecessary because the animals are not



supposed to have it. There is no ground for such kind of analogies; and, admitting them, the fact is contrary to what is asserted.

Almost all of the domestic animals have a peculiar discharge somewhat analogous.

True it is not sanguine, and why, because we imagine that not necessary. It has as

property far better calculated for the purpose of publishing to its own kind the

capability of Conception, viz. a strong odor, so strong indeed that we frequently find

the males attracted for a mile around.

But the human species, remarkable for their acute observation, have chosen to

make the discharge perceptible, so that the female may be fully convinced that

her state is perfect.

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